

said you could just feel the momentum building and the morale improve.

Neil Armstrong was not a very emotional guy, but when he heard that story, he became very emotional, as did Colonel Moe.

That is just one more example of where Neil Armstrong inspired all of us—in this case, a group of Americans who richly deserved and badly needed that inspiration.

Over the years, my family and I have come to know the Armstrong family. Carol Armstrong is still in Cincinnati, a dear friend. We were his neighbors in Cincinnati.

As we have shared stories in the lead-in to the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing, I have been reminded of how extraordinary it was that this towering figure had truly been such a modest, unassuming man despite all the notoriety.

In my view, how he handled the spotlight into which he was thrust said as much about Neil Armstrong as the time he spent on the Moon a half century ago. He was a true hero, but even before he blazed trails through the cosmos, Neil was already contributing to Ohio's rich legacy of pushing the boundaries of flight. He had already served his Nation with bravery and skill on Gemini 8. As a test pilot pushing the envelope, he had strapped himself into terrifying-looking contraptions with gigantic flame-belching engines tied onto huge fuel tanks.

Before he was a test pilot, he distinguished himself through his service to his country as a naval aviator—among other things, flying 78 combat missions over the Korean Peninsula. In one such mission, in fact, he was forced to eject from his plane into enemy territory, holding out long enough, thank God, for the U.S. Marines to locate him and escort him to safety.

For all of these accomplishments, this son of Ohio received the highest honors a grateful nation could bestow: the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal, and the Congressional Space Medal of Honor.

God smiled upon Neil Armstrong throughout his extraordinary life. Neil returned the favor by living his life with honor and dignity.

In 2012, Neil returned to the heavens above, this time venturing into the Kingdom of Heaven. I had the honor of being among those who delivered the eulogy at his funeral. Then, as today, I remembered him as a hero and as a friend. He was a humble Midwesterner and a proud Ohioan who believed that the honor of serving his country and meeting great challenges in his own stoic way was all the reward he deserved. He was a refreshing counterweight to the celebrity culture we too often embrace today.

The Apollo mission was many things to many people. To the world, it was mankind's greatest journey to date, a daring sojourn to the crown jewels in the night sky. For Americans, it was an affirmation of America's

exceptionalism, that we could beat the Soviets and respond to their Sputnik Program by following through on President Kennedy's bold vow to land a man on the Moon by the end of the 1960s.

For me, and for thousands of other young boys and girls across Ohio, it was simply the next act in our State's leadership in aviation, done with that quintessential Midwestern resolve and humility.

As Neil once so eloquently said, "The important achievement of Apollo was demonstrating that humanity is not forever chained to this planet and our visions go rather further than that, and our opportunities are unlimited."

Fifty years on, as we look ahead to chart our next voyage to the stars, let us always remember the bravery and patriotism and the humility of Neil, also of his other astronauts—Michael Collins, Buzz Aldrin—and the thousands of men and women who supported them on Earth, and the many courageous astronauts who preceded and followed them. Let the Apollo 11 mission be an example of what our great country can do when we come together to achieve the seemingly impossible.

Let us commit to come together into the future, into the distant horizons. Like the Apollo 11 exhibit exhibiting American leadership and benefiting all of mankind, there is more for us to do. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for votes Nos. 202 and 203. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Peter C. Wright to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency. I would have also voted nay on confirmation of the Wright nomination.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING MARIAN SPENCER

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great Ohioan and transformational civil rights leader, Marian Spencer. Born in Gallipolis, OH, as the granddaughter of a slave,

Spencer honored her grandfather by dedicating her life to fighting for a more equal and inclusive country. Spencer became a member of the NAACP at the young age of 13 and is best known for leading the fight to integrate Coney Island and its swimming pools in the 1950s.

After graduating from high school, Spencer attended the University of Cincinnati, where she made Cincinnati her adopted home and campaigned to integrate the university's Whites-only college prom. From there, she chaired the education committee of her local NAACP branch and helped raise \$30,000 to desegregate Cincinnati Public Schools, before becoming the chapter's first female president in 1981.

Spencer believed in the power of activism as a means of social change, and her efforts led her to becoming the first African-American woman elected to Cincinnati City Council. Spencer gave a voice to the disenfranchised and underrepresented, and she will be remembered as trailblazer for civil rights, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, and the environment.

We lost Marian Spencer this July, but her legacy will live on for generations. Her leadership and progressive ideas had a profound effect on our city, our State, and our Nation, and her work will remain a source of great pride for Ohioans. I am proud to honor Marian Spencer for her contributions to making our country a little freer and a little more just.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE AND TARI CONROY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I rise to recognize Mike and Tari Conroy for their impact on Ravalli County and the surrounding areas. Through their work as bluegrass musicians, the Conroys have brought delight to the hearts of their Montanan listeners.

The Conroys' devotion to bluegrass extends beyond their respective playing of the banjo, guitar, and other traditional bluegrass instruments. The events the Conroys take part in, such as celebrating the birthday of a 90-year-old U.S. Army veteran or the closing of an essential Missoula landmark, represent the very best of Montana. It is no surprise that Mr. Conroy is the president of the Montana Bluegrass Association.

Additionally, the Conroys have worked tirelessly to share their love of bluegrass music with their fellow Montanans by organizing the annual Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival, which takes place just south of Hamilton, MT. This festival brings numerous bluegrass bands from the Northwestern United States to perform in Montana. Despite the financial and logistical hurdles, the Conroys are committed to sharing their passion with their fellow Montanans. As the festival enters its 11th year, it has truly become a cultural staple of the Bitterroot.

I applaud Mike and Tari Conroy for their work promoting and spreading the joy of bluegrass music across the State of Montana. As the Conroys prepare for the next festival, I wish them all the best.●

IOWA SAFE SCHOOLS

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Iowa Safe Schools as they get set to begin their annual Pride Camp on July 15 in Des Moines. This summer program is designed to serve as an opportunity for LGBTQ students from around the state of Iowa to learn, to network, and to have lots of fun.

Thank you to Iowa Safe Schools for pursuing your mission of providing a safe environment and community for Iowa's LGBTQ youth to learn and grow. I am sending my best wishes to all of this year's attendees! Please, have a wonderful and productive time.●

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL HEALEY

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish in tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Michael Healey of the British Royal Artillery Regiment, a great gunner, an officer of the highest quality, a British patriot, and a beloved friend of Oklahoma and America.

On June 29, we lost Mike Healey at the age of 67 after a 4-year battle with cancer. Just as in life, he faced his last fight with courage and vigor, without complaint, and with that famous British stiff upper lip. Mike was taken from us too soon, but his memory will be with us always, and his service will live on as a testament to the bonds of affection and friendship that still animate the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Mike spent a lot of time in my State during the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s at a little place called Fort Sill, in Lawton, OK. Many of you know that Fort Sill is the home of the U.S. Army Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery.

Major Mike Healey first came to Fort Sill in January 1988 to replace Major Ian Dowdswell as the British exchange instructor in the field artillery advanced course, which is now called the captains career course.

Mike was already very experienced as a major in the British Artillery and brought that tactical and technical knowledge to share with U.S. students and faculty. He made it through the instructor "murder boards" in record time, as he had been an instructor in his own Army. He very quickly grasped the American acronyms and organization for combat. Mike did a fantastic job as an instructor and was respected by his students and colleagues.

Mike came back to Fort Sill in 1997, after a promotion to lieutenant colonel, and became the British liaison officer to the U.S. Field Artillery. He represented the British Army excep-

tionally well in all aspects of the new position. One of the main reasons he was promoted and was allowed to return to America so soon was that he spoke "American" so well.

Lieutenant Colonel Healey returned for a third time to Oklahoma in 2005 to be, once again, the British LNO to the U.S. Field Artillery School but with the added responsibility of also serving as the British air defense artillery liaison officer. LTG Dave Valcourt was the commanding general of Fort Sill at the time, and specifically requested that the British Army send Mike back to Fort Sill for yet another tour to help guide the base through a critical period as it absorbed the U.S. Army ADA School from Fort Bliss.

Lieutenant Colonel Healey's combat theater service gave him immediate credibility with his American comrades in arms. Mike served in the Falklands War with British forces in 1984 and in Iraq alongside American units in 1991. In addition to his combat credentials, he coordinated joint/combined Cold War exercises and security procedures, working with Americans in Germany in 1979 and 1990 and in Turkey in 1996.

As a truly solemn and high-visibility assignment, Mike commanded the Queen's Guard at Edinburgh Castle in Scotland, marching the men down the Royal Mile to Holyrood Castle, followed by dinner with the Queen in 1983.

Mike was a graduate of Sandhurst Military Academy, the Royal Field Artillery School at Larkhill, and earned a master's degree at Schrivenham. He also had a BA in economics from Manchester University.

His military awards include the U.S. Army Field Artillery Association St. Barbara's Medal, the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal, the British Gulf War Medal, and the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal for special recognition during the commemoration of the Queen's 50th year on the throne.

Lieutenant Colonel Healey's greatest satisfaction and proudest moment, by his own admission, was when he authored, staffed, and presented a new Ministry of Defense Command policy to House of Commons on ensuring military members were not forgotten once they left the military and that their sacrifices were acknowledged in the civilian world with special accommodations.

He and his wife, Mo, were the consummate hosts at numerous official functions they personally planned and catered at Fort Sill, to include their memorable farewell bash in 2007 at the Polo Field.

Mike Healey loved America, Oklahoma, and the U.S. Army Field Artillery. He was constantly amazed by the wide-open spaces in the American West, the 300-plus sunny days per year, and how friendly the people were.

Mike unabashedly adopted the United States as his second home and voluntarily spent nearly a third of his military career in Oklahoma.

In fact, he thought so much of this great land that he specifically requested Old Glory be draped across his casket next to the Union Jack at his military funeral, which will be on July 19 in Thirsk, England. I am personally requesting that an American flag be flown over the Capitol in honor of Mike Healey and his service, not just to his own country but also for his service to our country. That flag will then be transported to England for the burial by Lieutenant General Valcourt, Retired, who will also deliver a portion of Mike's eulogy.

With this extraordinary request, Mike performed one last act of service by reminding his British compatriots and his American friends of our proud history and all that we still have to achieve together.

In January 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt sent Harry Hopkins as his personal envoy to meet Prime Minister Winston Churchill. At dinner one night, Hopkins rose and quoted from the Book of Ruth: "Whither thou goest I will go, and whither thou lodgest I will lodge. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." He then added, "even to the end." Mike Healey lived those words. He saw firsthand why Americans love their country, and he became a true "forward observer" of the American dream. We are all better off for knowing Mike, and we will never forget all he has done for the U.S. Army, the Field Artillery School, the State of Oklahoma, and the United States of America.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHELLE HEATH

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the service of an Oklahoma native and proud Marine officer upon completing 22 years of dedicated service to our great Nation. Lt. Col. Michelle Heath was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in April 1997 and has dedicated her career to the selfless service of our country.

Throughout the course of her career, Lieutenant Colonel Heath supported numerous operations both stateside and overseas. During her first tour at Camp Lejeune with 8th Motor Transport Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Heath deployed as the motor transport detachment commander. After completion of this deployment, in May 2000, she was assigned as the assistant logistics officer to Marine Aircraft Group-14, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

Follow-on assignments included duty as the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing Antiterrorism Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point followed by time with Mobilization Plans and Policy, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Marine Corps Base Quantico. During this time she was directly involved with the mobilization of Marine Corps Reserve units in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In June 2006,